REGISTER OF
CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	10 June 1998
Name of applicant/court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	The Age of Innocence
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Applicable
Producer:	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Aurum Press Limited
Author:	David Hamilton
Format:	Book
Country of Origin:	UK
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Not Applicable	Running time:
Trailers:		Running time:
		Total Running time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Unrestricted.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

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Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on Not Applicable

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The Classification Office classifies the book *The Age of Innocence* as:
Unrestricted.

The Age of Innocence consists largely of colour and black and white photographs by well-known photographer David Hamilton. The photographs show naked, semi-naked and clothed adolescent girls. The photographs portray the girls in a romanticised manner, using a soft-focus effect, and focusing on the girls' beauty. The text includes an introduction discussing the eroticism of virginity, quotations from literature underneath most of the photographs, and several short sections of prose describing girls, often focusing on their awakening sexuality.

The Age of Innocence approaches but does not meet the threshold of tending to promote or support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes. While the portrayal of adolescent girls' sexuality is inevitably a sensitive subject, this book remains within the boundaries of legitimate study. The book presents the girls as untouchable or forbidden.

The book exploits the nudity of young persons to a moderate degree. It contains many photographs in which adolescent girls' breasts are visible, and some in which attention is drawn to their pubic region. This element of exploitation has been weighed against the dominant effect of the book, which is primarily aesthetic, and its apparently serious purpose as a study of adolescent girls' sexuality.

The Classification Office sought expert assistance from a professional phototographer, an art historian, and three sexual health educators in forming its view of the book.

OFLC Ref: 9700535